

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
The Development of Operational, Technical)	WT Docket No. 96-86
and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting)	
Federal, State and Local Public Safety)	
Communications Requirements Through)	
the)	
Year 2010)	

**REPLY COMMENTS OF REGION 40,
700 MHz REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

As Chairman of Region 40, 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee, I am hereby replying to the comments filed in response to the Commission's *Eighth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-captioned proceeding. Region 40, Northern Texas, which includes the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, is very actively engaged in providing the public safety users in our area access to the 700 MHz band. We recently completed our regional planning efforts and submitted the 700 MHz plan to the Commission on May 8, 2006, for approval. We look forward to the Commission's approval of this plan in order that our users can start licensing the much needed 700 MHz channels.

We emphasize that our Region is very supportive of the Comments filed by other Regional Planning Committees, public safety agencies and Associations. We reiterate their Comments, plus those of many manufacturers, calling for the Commission to allow public safety users the flexibility to choose the wideband or broadband solution that best fits their needs and budget. Our Region, similar to

most Regions in this country, has a wide variety of population densities, agency sizes and budget resources. Region 40 has the Dallas/Fort Worth area, as noted above, as well as some very sparsely populated rural areas. One size definitely does not fit all when it comes to communications solutions, including emerging advanced high speed data technologies. As a result, the public safety agencies in our Region must be able to have a choice of technology that best fits their needs, whether that is broadband, wideband, or a combination of both.

Region 40 strongly disagrees with the Comments filed in this proceeding by the four broadband technology providers which urge the Commission to eliminate the wideband option in the 700 MHz public safety band and mandate exclusive use of broadband technology. Instead, we urge the Commission to adopt the flexibility plan filed by the National Public Safety Telecommunications Council (NPSTC), which is also supported by all public safety users who commented in this proceeding. NPSTC calls for flexibility on a local regional basis, and argues that the Regional Planning Committees are in the best position to determine and coordinate the broadband and wideband needs of the local agencies within their region. Region 40 agrees with this flexibility approach.

NPSTC also urges the Commission to adopt rules that ensure the protection of 700 MHz public safety voice systems in the adjacent narrowband channels. This concern was also expressed by other public safety agencies and associations, Regional Planning Committees, and equipment providers who filed Comments. We urge the Commission to accept these Comments by the public safety community and

technical experts, and develop rules that properly protect our voice systems from interference by broadband and wideband technologies.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Daniel Scrivner, PE

June 23, 2006